

## News from the Australasian Section

**WELCOME** to the Society for Conservation Biology-Australasia Region "News and Views" section of *Pacific Conservation Biology*. Each issue of *Pacific Conservation Biology*, this space will be dedicated to the news and views of our section. This forum is open to all members of the section and is intended to be an exchange for information and opinions. We encourage you to make good use of this unique opportunity and forward any submissions to Nicola Nelson at [Nicola.Nelson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Nicola.Nelson@vuw.ac.nz)

### Section update:

Our members and board have been actively involved in the Society for Conservation Biology activities at the local and international level. Our own Andy Mack represented our section at the recent Board of Governors meeting. A great deal of discussion at that meeting focused on continuing the internationalization process, including how often to hold meetings outside the United States of America. It was decided to hold meetings every other year outside the United States of America and that regions that have recently held a Society for Conservation Biology annual meeting would not be eligible to host again in the near future, but would be eligible to co-host with another section. The Australasian section was considered not to have hosted recently and thus is eligible to host a meeting in 2007. We have been approached by Charles Daugherty (Victoria University of Wellington) to participate in a bid to host the meeting in New Zealand in conjunction with the Marine Section and look forward to further developments.

In other society news, the recent elections have been completed and all board positions filled. Our newly elected office bearers are Robert Davis (Australia) — returning Programme Chair, Nicola Nelson (New Zealand) — Communications, Tish Silberbauer (Australia), Jean-Marc Hero (Australia) — returning Education Chair. Our ex-officio members of the Board are Dick Frankham (Australia) and Harry

Recher (Australia). Our continuing Board members are Menna Jones (Australia) — President, Andy Mack (Papua New Guinea) — Conservation, Caroline Gross (Australia) — Nominations, Karen Firestone (Australia) — Secretary and Treasurer.

We are also pleased to have completed the Memorandum of Understanding with *Pacific Conservation Biology* and welcome Harry Recher to the Australasian regional Board of Directors as an *ex officio* board member. Our strong link with *Pacific Conservation Biology* is an exciting and unique opportunity for our section and we encourage all members to make the most of this enviable opportunity by contributing to our "local" conservation journal and subscribing via the Society for Conservation Biology website.

**Membership:** We currently have 325 section members, with numbers roughly evenly split between those residing within the region and those residing outside the region. Members from within the region come (in order of prevalence) from Australia, Hawaii, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Guam, Fiji, Palau, and Vanuatu. Our section, however, is one of the smallest in the Society and we are looking to expand membership within the region, particularly in the Pacific Islands and Papua New Guinea. There are a number of ways that the section is working to increase membership in the Society and the section:

- 1) If you are attending a regional conference and are able to assist by putting promotional materials (brochures, posters) out, please contact Rob Davis at [rob@graduate.uwa.edu.au](mailto:rob@graduate.uwa.edu.au).
- 2) If you are not a member, consider joining the Society for Conservation Biology, the pre-eminent scientific conservation organization of its kind. Encourage your students and colleagues to join as well. For further information about becoming a member of the Society and the Australasian section, visit [www.consbio.org](http://www.consbio.org) or email Karen

Firestone ([kfirestone@zoo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kfirestone@zoo.nsw.gov.au)). Prospective members should note that there are a variety of membership rates and there is now the option to join the society for a minimal membership fee of \$10US, which provides access to the society newsletter, website, expertise database, and other benefits. Shortly, you will be able to join the Society and the Australasian section via the *Pacific Conservation Biology* website (<http://www.science.murdoch.edu.au/centres/others/pcb/>).

- 3) With the beneficence of the Christensen Foundation grant to the Society for Conservation Biology, we are now also able to sponsor new members from within the region for one year memberships. Those interested in putting students or colleagues up for a sponsored membership should contact Karen Firestone at [kfirestone@zoo.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kfirestone@zoo.nsw.gov.au) for further details. Priorities will be towards sponsoring memberships from developing regions and students.

### Education committee

The Education Committee for the Australasian Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology has been moving slowly however steadily.

Jean-Marc Hero is currently the sole member and recruiting members is a high priority — so if you are a member of the Society for Conservation Biology-Australasian section and you are interested in providing opportunities for conservation biology please read on — any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

The first objective is preparing a website with information on Educational Training opportunities in the Australasian Region.

This will include:

1. Scholarships available for students throughout the region — divided into regional sections e.g., Pacific Islands, Australia, Papua New Guinea, etc.

## 2. Educational training including:

- Short courses for postgraduates and industry members.
- Postgraduate opportunities for Postgraduate diplomas, MSc and PhD scholarships.

If you can assist with any of the above please do not hesitate to contact M.Hero@griffith.edu.au.

### **Inherit and Conserve**

Help the Society for Conservation Biology strengthen conservation capacity worldwide by recycling valuable scientific resources. Inherit and Conserve aims to provide conservation professionals in developing countries with previously used equipment and supplies to aid in their conservation efforts. Donated scientific resources will be matched

with recipients using the World Wide Web and distributed at the Society for Conservation Biology's 2004 annual meeting. To match donors and recipients, we need your help. Visit: <http://www.conbio.org/2004/InheritConserve/> and become a part of Inherit and Conserve!

### **Local chapters**

The Society for Conservation Biology is calling for the formation of chapters within regions. If there are any expressions of interest in Austral-asia, please contact Rob Davis ([rob@graduate.uwa.edu.au](mailto:rob@graduate.uwa.edu.au)).

### **The Society for Conservation Biology 2004**

At the New York meeting from July 30th-August 2nd (<http://cerc.columbia.edu/scb2004/>), there will be

an annual meeting for Australasian section members in attendance. While you are there, make sure you also drop in and check out our section booth at the meeting. You will be able to buy a wide range of interesting artefacts (with proceeds supporting conservation projects in Papua New Guinea).

As you can see, a great deal is happening with local and international Society for Conservation Biology news, so remember to check the web site periodically for all the news and views.

Edited by Rob Davis and Karen Firestone with contributions from Andy Mack and Jean-Marc Hero.